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LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement issued on 6 March 1999 by the President of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, Mr. Milan Milutinović, and the Vice-President of its Government, Dr. Ratko Marković, relative to their letter addressed to the members of the Contact Group (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex

Statement of the President of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia and the Vice-President of its Government

On the basis of positions adopted at yesterday's meeting of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia to the talks on Kosovo and Metohija, the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Milan Milutinović, and the head of our multinational delegation, the Vice-President of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Prof. Dr. Ratko Marković, addressed their letters to the Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group member States.

The letters most seriously draw attention to the manipulations and campaign set in motion to have the representatives of the political parties of the Albanian separatist movement sign the non-existent "Agreement". This is a test that was not discussed or accepted in Rambouillet. Also, it was neither discussed nor approved by the Contact Group. Both our delegation and some of the Contact Group member States have dissociated themselves from it in writing. The letters resolutely reject attempts to impose the policy of fait accompli and demand that the Contact Group member States and the international community prevent any manipulation and create appropriate conditions for the resumption of talks without pressure, threats or blackmail. The Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are ready to make their full contribution to such talks, on the well-known principled basis; it is, inter alia, pointed out in the letters, which were jointly signed and addressed by the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Milan Milutinović and the head of our delegation, the Vice-President of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Prof. Dr. Ratko Marković, to the Foreign Ministers of France, Italy, the Russian Federation, Germany, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.